



Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller

December 1, 2016

Department of Children's Services Shows Notable Improvement

Tennessee Comptroller Justin P. Wilson is proud to recognize significant improvements made within the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS). Many of these improvements are noted in a newly released performance audit of the department.

"DCS has made great strides in improving its services to Tennessee's most-at-risk children, while also demonstrating responsible use of taxpayer dollars," said Comptroller Justin P. Wilson.

Auditors observed that DCS took substantial actions to address security issues at Tennessee's three Youth Development Centers (YDCs) following several highly publicized incidents. In addition to addressing security weaknesses, two YDCs have passed a program-focused accreditation process, with the third in process as of September 2016.

The department has also worked to improve how it handles child abuse hotline referrals, how it ensures volunteers working with children have passed background checks, and its Tennessee Family and Child Tracking System (TFACTS).

A previous audit of the department in 2014 included 12 findings; however, the new report includes just four findings. While there is still work to be done, it is clear that DCS is correcting past problems.

"DCS has had its share of challenges over the last few years, but I'm pleased and encouraged to see progress," said Wilson. "Commissioner Hommrich and the entire department should be commended for their efforts to improve their important work for Tennessee children."

To view the audit report online, go to: <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/sa/>

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